

## CORRESPONDENCE

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#### REGULATION 33B.

Sir,—Your editorial remarks, in the March 1945 number of the *Journal*, do not seem to do justice to the results of the introduction of Defence Regulation 33B. As you will see in the table below, the number of persons in respect of whom two Forms I were received by medical officers of health in England and Wales in 1944 was 827, a number which can hardly be described as “woefully small”, having regard to the prime purpose of the Regulation, which was to deal with a hard core of persons known to be infecting numbers of Service members, but impervious to persuasion to undergo examination and treatment.

#### SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH ON THE WORKING OF REGULATION 33B IN ENGLAND AND WALES FROM 1st JANUARY 1944 TO 31st DECEMBER 1944.

	CLASSIFICATION.	MALES.	FEMALES.
(1)	Total number of cases in respect of whom Form I was received ... ..	246	8,093
(2)	Number of those in (1) in which attempts were made outside the scope of the Regulation to persuade the contact to be examined : contacts found ... .. ,, examined ... ..	109 84	3,587 2,774
(3)	Number of those in (1) in respect of whom two or more Forms I were received ... ..	4	823
(4)	Number of those in (3) in which persuasion was exercised ... Results of (4) ... .. Not traced ... .. Examined ... .. Left the district ... .. Not stated ... .. Not yet examined ... ..	1 150 235 9 12 3	409
(5)	Number of those in (3) in respect of whom Form 2 had to be served... .. Results of (5) ... .. Examined ... .. Not stated ... .. Removed from district ... .. Not yet attended ... .. Prosecuted ... ..	3 346 23 3 3 39	414
(6)	Defaulted after being examined and therefore prosecuted ... Prosecuted as a result of action started during 1943 ... .. Total prosecutions during period ... ..	— — —	39 4 82

Apart from this, it was expected that, under this Regulation, the receipt of Forms I by medical officers of health would have the effect of informing them of hitherto unsuspected sources of contagion in their areas, and from the first the Ministry of Health encouraged them to take informal action by persuasion on receipt of the first Form I. It was in consequence of the reluctance of a number of authorities to take such action that the Ministry of Health issued its Circular 2896, clarifying the position and formally authorizing sufficient disclosure of the information received under Regulation 33B to enable contacts to be traced without waiting for receipt of a second Form I in respect of any person.

The table shows that action taken on receipt of the first Form I led to 2,858 contacts being persuaded to undergo examination.

In fairness, it should be recognized that these results are a direct consequence of the operation of Regulation 33B.

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L. W. HARRISON

#### Venereal diseases campaign in Canada

*The Canadian Medical Association Journal* is now giving at least one half page in each monthly issue to the “Venereal Disease Campaign”, using the slogan, “Find V.D. Contacts—Report V.D. Cases”. In the February number there is a graph showing the incidence of venereal diseases in the Canadian Army from 1st January 1940 to the end of December 1944. In 1940 the average was a little over 60 per thousand. The rate was more constant for 1941, with an annual figure of 46; it fell again in 1942 to about 38 and in 1943 to 33 and the final figure for 1944 is about 25 per thousand.